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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Waro Iwane

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EXAMINER

PHAM, TOAN NGOC

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/06/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/519,919	Applicant(s) IWANE, WARO	
	Examiner Toan N. Pham	Art Unit 2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 33-48 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janssen (US 6,560,529) in view of Spry (US 5,596,319).

Regarding claim 25: Janssen discloses a traffic sign recognition and navigation system comprising an input device (4) for obtaining the circumstances around the traffic facilities to be operated as an image; a database (3) having image data in connection with the traffic facilities stored in advance; a comparison device (7) for comparing the image data obtained by said input device with the image data stored in said database; a recognition device (2) for recognizing and specifying, where the results obtained by comparing the image data coincided, the contents of the data; and an output device (3) for informing an operator of the results recognized and specified by the recognition device in an image (col. 1, lines 43-60; col. 2, lines 23-67). Janssen does not disclose the voice data. Spry discloses the vehicle system comprising the camera (13) for capturing image data and a microphone (21) for capturing voice data (col. 2, lines 39-53). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize image and voice data from the camera and microphone to capture realistic video and audio data associated with the environment surrounding the vehicle.

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Regarding claim 26: Janssen discloses a storage device (3) which, where the image data corresponding to the objects obtained by said input device (4) are not present within said database, make the image data corresponding to new objects correspond to a position on the map to newly store them in said database; and a data update device which, where the image data corresponding to the objects are different from the image data stored in said database, updates them to new image data or voice data to store them in said database (col. 1, line 46-col. 2, line 67). Janssen does not disclose the voice data. Spry discloses the vehicle system comprising the camera (13) for capturing image data and a microphone (21) for capturing voice data (col. 2, lines 39-53). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize image and voice data from the camera and microphone to capture realistic video and audio data associated with the environment surrounding the vehicle.

Regarding claim 27: Janssen discloses a judgment device for carrying out some judgment on the basis of the matter recognized or specified by said recognition device to inform an operator of directions based on the judged results in an image by said output device (3) (col. 1, line 62-col. 2, line 58).

Regarding claim 28: Janssen discloses judgment device carries out some judgment on the basis of the matter recognized or specified by said recognition device, and directs said output device of a fixed action on the basis of the judged results to automatically actuate a brake device or a driving device (col. 2, lines 58-61).

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Regarding claim 29: Janssen discloses the devices are connected with other devices through communication lines (1, 14, 15) (col. 1, lines 41-50).

Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janssen (US 6,560,529).

Regarding claims 30-32: Janssen discloses a traffic sign recognition and navigation system comprising an input device (4) for obtaining the circumstances around the traffic facilities to be operated as an image; a database (3) having image data in connection with the traffic facilities stored in advance; a comparison device (7) for comparing the image data obtained by said input device with the image data stored in said database; a recognition device (2) for recognizing and specifying, where the results obtained by comparing the image data coincided, the contents of the data; and an output device (3) for informing an operator of the results recognized and specified by the recognition device in an image (col. 1, lines 43-60; col. 2, lines 23-67). Janssen discloses the road/traffic sign recognition system; thus, marks, signs, the shape of harbors, airport, railroad tracks, railroad marks, railroad signs, railroad guide plates, road marks, road signs and traffic guide plates are obviously road/traffic signs.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 33-48 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art of Harumoto et al. (US 7,194,347) and Van Ryzin (US 5,844,505) are cited to show a variety of navigation system with road signs video and/or audio recognition.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan N. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-2967. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin C. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Toan N Pham/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2612